

learned, brainstorm about new ideas, and identify ways to sustain the momentum through difficult budget years.

We hope that the following analysis of the action plans submitted to date will enhance the court community's understanding of how services for self-represented litigants can be incorporated into the core of the court's functions.

II. The Action Plans¹

California has a total of 58 counties and a population of 33,871,648.² As already stated, the counties vary greatly in size and population demographics. The smallest is Alpine County, with a population of 1,208, and the largest is Los Angeles County, with a population of 9,519,338, approximately one-third of the state's entire population.³ The court in each county was invited to submit a proposal for planning or for implementation of a plan. For purposes of this report, the courts have been divided into five categories defined by the number of judges allocated to each.

Category 1	Smallest	13 counties ⁴	0 – 4 judges
Category 2	Small	15 counties ⁵	5 – 14 judges
Category 3	Medium	12 counties ⁶	15 – 49 judges
Category 4	Large	8 counties ⁷	50 or more judges
Category 5	Regional	10 counties ⁸	Multi – county proposals

For the most part, the multi-county proposals were submitted by smaller courts. The largest of these 10 courts was the Superior Court of Monterey County, with 18 judges allocated to it. All the other courts in this group have fewer than 15 judges, and 6 of them have fewer than 5.

¹ A chart summarizing the proposals is attached at Appendix C.

² U.S. Census Bureau, *United States Census 2000*, DP-1 Population and Housing Characteristics, Summary File 1 (SF1), <http://factfinder.census.gov>, 3/10/03.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Alpine, Colusa, Del Norte, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Tuolumne.

⁵ El Dorado, Humboldt, Imperial, Kings, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Napa, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba

⁶ Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Riverside, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura.

⁷ Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Clara.

⁸ Butte/Glenn/Tehama, Calaveras/Amador, Monterey/Santa Cruz/San Benito, and Nevada/Sierra.

COURT	IMPLEMENTATION PLANS SUBMITTED	STILL IN PLANNING PROCESS	NOTHING PROPOSED
1. SMALLEST	8	2	3
2. SMALL	10	2	3
3. MEDIUM	12	—	—
4. LARGE	7	1	—
5. REGIONAL	8 ⁸	2 ⁹	—
TOTAL	45	7	6

Since the regional conferences on self-represented litigant assistance, the courts from 52 of California's 58 counties have submitted to the AOC proposals for programs to assist self-represented litigants. All counties with more than 15 judges have submitted proposals for either planning or implementation. Most of the courts have developed plans that they are now working on implementing, but a few are still in the planning stage.



⁹ Represents one proposal covering two counties.